

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 HEW-08 DRC-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /102 W

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R 080911Z AUG 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2209

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 1343

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL LAUNCHES PUBLIC
HEALTH CAMPAIGN

1. PEOPLE'S DAILY AUGUST 8 FRONT PAGES EDITORIAL
ENTITLED "CARRY OUT THE PATRIOTIC PUBLIC HEALTH CAMPAIGN.". THE EDITORIAL, WHICH CONTAINS THE FIRST NEW POLITICAL LINE TO APPEAR SINCE THE JULY 1 PARTY ANNIVERSARY PIECE, IS CLEARLY INTENDED TO KICK OFF A NEW UPSURGE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH, CLAIMING THAT THE CAMPAIGN "IS PERSONALLY LED BY CHAIRMAN MAO." ALTHOUGH THE ANTI-LIN ANTI-CONFUCIUS MOVEMENT IS RATHER LABORIOUSLY DRAGGED IN, THE EMPHASIS IS ON THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND INCREASING PRODUCTION. A THREE-WAY COMBINATION OF LEADERS, MASSES AND EXPERTS WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR THE CAMPAIGN.

2. COMMENT: PUBLIC HEALTH CAMPAIGNS ARE A NORMAL FEATURE OF SUMMER ACTIVITY IN CHINA, BUT THIS ONE APPEARS TO BE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE AS INDICATED BY THE FACT THAT THE CHAIRMAN IS CLAIMED TO BE PERSONALLY IN COMMAND. WE SUSPECT THAT
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MORE THAN CLEANING LATRINES IS ON THE MINDS OF PRC LEADERS,

AND IT MAY WELL BE YET ANOTHER MEANS OF CHANNELING THE
ATTENTION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE POPULACE INTO MORE
INNOCUOUS PURSUITS THAN THOSE OF THE PAST FEW MONTHS WHEN
TENSIONS ARISING FROM THE CURRENT IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN
LED TO OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE.
BRUCE

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